Kershaw Seeks Court Order Against Ray

Nashville attorney Jack Kershaw claims a court should order James Earl Ray to pay him $100,000 for his efforts to get Ray a new trial in the killing of Martin Luther King Jr.

And, Kershaw says in a Chancery Court lawsuit, Ray's new attorney, assassination conspiracy theorist Mark Lane, should be made to pay Kershaw $300,000 for "inducing" Ray to break his contract with Kershaw.

Kershaw's allegations are contained in an answer and countersuit to a lawsuit Ray filed in December asking for the return of personal and legal papers and for an accounting of money Kershaw made while representing Ray.

In asking for a court-awarded fee from Ray, Kershaw admits that he was paid by *Playboy* magazine for a Ray interview and says he also "contemplated" selling Ray T-shirts to make money for a Ray "defense fund."

Kershaw refused to say how much the magazine paid him, but Ray's suit said Ray thought it to be somewhere between $11,500 and $20,000.

Kershaw's countersuit says, however, that it wouldn't matter and that he is holding Ray's papers because Ray has not paid him for his almost-year long representation of the Brushy Mountain State Prison resident.

Kershaw's suit, filed by attorney Kirk Waite, says Kershaw "had been personally paying all expenses" in trying to get Ray a new trial, trying to stop a proposed transfer of Ray to a federal prison and representing Ray before a special congressional committee.